FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KUNA CITES PLO SPOKESMAN ON SUPPORT OF IRAN

LD281016 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0721 GMT 28 Dec 79 LD

[Excerpt] Kuwait--The official spokesman of the PLO said in a statement published here today that the PLO intends to stand by Iran against any American aggression.

The spokesman, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, told AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: We consider any aggression against Iran to be aggression against the Arab nation, and we in the PLO have declared from the beginning that we consider ourselves as being with the revolution of Iran in the same trench against the common enemy--imperialism and Zionism.

He added that the American "aggression" against Iran might occur through the violation of its airspace, sovereignty, the inviolability [as received] of its territory and waters.

PLO WARNS U.S. AGAINST HANDING OVER PALESTINIAN TO ISRAEL

NC271829 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to Arab World 1615 GMT 27 Dec 79 NC

[Statement made on 27 December by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department--read by announcer]

[Text] The U.S. authorities intend to hand over to the Zionist occupation authorities on a false charge struggler Ziyad Abu 'Ayn, a Palestinian who is a Jordanian citizen. We believe that the United States has no right to hand over any Arab citizen to the Zionist occupation authorities. We consider this an aggressive act against the Palestinian people about which we cannot remain silent. While denouncing such a U.S. action, to the Zionist authorities a serious precedent in international relations about which we cannot remain silent.

The PLO warns of the consequences of such an action, which is considered a violation of human rights and an aggression against both Palestinian and all struggling peoples and their right to resist all forms of occupation, as provided for by international norms and decisions.

FEDAYEEN BLOW UP CULVERT SOUTH OF DEAD SEA

NC271411 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to Arab World 1245 GMT 27 Dec 79 NC

[Text] An explosive charge, placed by our fighters from the martyr Bajis Abu 'Atwan group, exploded last night under a culvert on a military road leading to [word indistinct] in the settlement Wadi 'Arabah, south of the Dead Sea. The culvert was demolished and traffic on the road halted. Enemy forces immediately began a large-scale combing operation of the area, in which helicopters took part, in an attempt to apprehend our fighters. The combing operation lasted until this morning. However, our fighters returned to base safely.

JOINT FORCES WILL NOT REPLY TO ISRAELI MOVES

NC280750 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 28 Dec 79 NC

[Text] The Joint Command of the Lebanese National Movement and the Palestinian Revolution held its periodic meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of brother Col al-Haj Isma'il, commander of the joint forces in the south, and issued the following:

1. The command approved the continued implementation of security measures in the south with a view to controlling all situations.

2. The joint command affirmed that the joint forces of the Lebanese National Movement and the Palestinian resistance will continue not to reply to the Israeli and isolationist aggression.

3. The command affirmed the need for the UNIFIL to impose its authority in confronting agent Sa'd Haddad and the Zionist aggression against the south.

4. The joint command is of the opinion that the recent moves by the Lebanese authority aim at diverting the followup committee from its basic task and at circumventing the Tunis summit resolutions. The joint command affirms its decision to support the Lebanese National Movement in its position on the issue of the south and all other issues.

The joint command of the Palestinian revolution yesterday also held a meeting and met with a delegation of the popular committee for the border strip to study the conditions of the population of this area.

ARAB BOYCOTT OFFICE BLACKLISTS TRANS WORLD AIRLINES

JN230837 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Dec 79 p 5 JN

[Excerpt] Amman--In its 43rd session which ended in Damascus yesterday the Arab boycott of Israel office decided to blacklist the U.S. airline company TWA for having violated the Arab boycott of Israel regulations.

In light of this decision TWA planes will be banned from using Arab airspace and airports and its offices and branches in the Arab homeland will be closed.

Hunus al-Katari, director of the PLO's occupied homeland affairs department and member of the Palestinian delegation to the meetings, has stated: TWA did not respond to the Arab boycott of Israel office's warning asking it to abide by Arab boycott of Israel regulations contained in the resolution adopted by the Arab boycott of Israel office's 42d session in Tunis in June. In an interview with AD-DUSTUR, Al-Katari said TWA is implementing a tourist project in cooperation with EL-'AL in Kenya. Al-Katari added: Other important resolutions adopted by the meeting were those lifting the ban on all Iranian companies that have abided by the Arab boycott of Israel office's regulations in the wake of the Iranian revolution.

PALESTINIAN MAGAZINE CONDEMNS ATTACK ON PLO BY 'ARAB REGIME'

(Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1130 GMT 24 Dec 79 NC

[FALASTIN ATH-THAWRAH magazine editorial--date and title not given]

[Excerpts] The Palestinians in general and the PLO in particular have grown accustomed to dealing with campaigns of incrimination and slander with much self-restraint and patience. This is because we believe our cardinal conflict to be against our chief enemies represented by U.S. imperialism and international Zionism. We consider any effort to deal with those who perpetrate secondary conflicts as a drain on our power, which is devoted to dealing with our chief enemy. We are, therefore, very careful to maintain sound relations with Arab countries. Never has the Palestinian revolution initiated or been drawn into contrived, secondary conflicts.

Our attitude stems from our firm belief in the ultimate triumph of Arab fraternity, because any crack in Arab ranks merely serves our common enemy regardless of the color and texture of the garments worn by those who perpetrate the contrived secondary conflicts.

We are certain that the Arab nation appreciates the responsible attitude of the Palestinian revolution. The Arab people, on the other hand, have displayed a responsible national awareness whenever the Palestinian revolution has been subjected to these incriminatory campaigns and attempts to interfere in its domestic affairs.

In light of these points, we want to mention specifically the latest attack waged against the PLO by an Arab regime that alleges its allegiance to nationalism and the revolution. We do this not to counterattack but reveal the facts to the Arab masses so that they will know the full dimensions and perils of such an attitude. These events come at a time when the Arabs need to unify their stand, ranks and aims in order to counter the Camp David pact with an Arab pact that will be truly capable of repulsing this imperialist and aggressive pact, bringing down its signatories and foiling their conspiratorial designs.

After closing down the PLO offices, the perpetrators of this campaign claimed that they had formed popular committees composed of Palestinians who live in their country. These committees are supposed to replace the PLO. They also claim that these committees express the Palestinians' liberty in choosing their representatives. As for the PLO, it represents repression and suppression in their opinions.

Our reply to those who perpetrate this campaign is that if they have any logic at all, then we might allow ourselves the liberty of asking them about the legality of their intervention in Palestinian affairs. Do they believe that the Palestinian people are like virgins who are willing to be raped? The Palestinians possess a progressive political awareness by the testimony of their very enemies. We believe that the aim of the leaders of this campaign is not so simplistic and ridiculous, for what they have achieved in effect is the closure of the PLO offices and the expulsion of its representatives in their country. We do not believe such a measure will serve the Palestinian people's cause because they will adhere to the PLO to the death because the PLO is their sole legal representative. What did the perpetrators of this campaign offer to the Palestinian people living in their country other than the expulsion of their sole legal representative and the closing down of the PLO offices? We have a right to ask the perpetrators of this campaign whether this deed expresses the Palestinians' freedom or whether it embodies an official suppression of this freedom and the Palestinians historical option? Don't they regard their decision to close down the PLO offices and replace the PLO with fake committees, which they choose to call "popular committees," as a blatant defiance of the Arab popular national will? Did the perpetrators of this unjust campaign forget all the Arab resolutions pertaining to Palestine? Did they forget that the PLO was established by an Arab summit decision? They certainly know these facts. They also know that the Arab resolutions have specifically provided for supporting the PLO, recognizing it and providing it with everything that will bolster it. These deeds constitute an act of defiance toward all the signatories of these resolutions and toward all who regard this unjust campaign as a deviation from the nationalistic attitude.

BAHRAIN

GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY WILL NOT PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR U.S. NAVY

LD281030 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0727 GMT 28 Dec 79 LD

[Excerpt] Kuwait--Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' said today that Bahrain has informed the United States that it will not render any facilities to U.S. Navy units entering Gulf waters. In a Manama dispatch the paper quoted a high-level Bahraini source as saying Bahrain will not even allow U.S. naval warships reported to have sailed to the Gulf region to drop anchor at its ports.

The source said, according to the paper's story, that the attitude of Bahrain is in harmony with its policy calling for keeping the Gulf region away from international conflicts. Furthermore, it does not want to get involved in the present dispute between the United States and Iran over the Tehran U.S. Embassy crisis.

However, the paper did not mention how and when Bahrain conveyed its stand to the United States.

DAILY NEWS SEES INCONSISTENCY IN NONALINED STAND

GF280700 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 27-28 Dec 79 p 2 GF

[Editorial]

[Text] Man does not live by bread alone, but food has been used as a political weapon throughout history. Children are taught to obey their parents often under threat of missing supper and the ancient city-states were starved into submission during times of war. The Napoleonic wars saw the development of the economic blockade developed to a high degree.

Now the World Food Council and the nonaligned movement have rejected the use of food as a political weapon, even in cases such as the United States-Iran conflict.

It comes as little suprise that such a statement, clearly aimed at America, should come from the nonaligned movement which is currently under the chairmanship of Cuba's Fidel Castro.

There arises a question of double standards when the developing nations condemn one form of economic pressure while condoning another, as in oil. Instead of devoting its energy to the criticism of the West, particularly America, the developing nations might for once try to influence one of their number which has abrogated international laws governing the inviolability of diplomatic personnel.

Such an action would almost certainly have a greater effect in America where attitudes towards developing nations as a whole are likely to become much tougher as a result of the embassy hijacking.

America is as close as any nation to agricultural self-sufficiency, due largely to its geographical location and its well-organised farming system, and it is to this bounteous granary that more and more Americans look as the foundation for a new isolationist policy in the wake of the mauling they are taking overseas. Any return to such a policy would be tragic both for America, the rest of the free world and many of the developing nations.

KUWAIT

FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS YAR OFFERS TO HOST PDRY-OMAN CONFERENCE

LD261520 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Dec 79 LD

[Excerpts] Kuwait--Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Kuwait, today revealed that contacts are taking place to hold a conciliation conference between South Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman in San'a' to settle the long-standing differences between the two sides.

He informed newsmen that the two countries agreed to hold a high-level meeting in Kuwait in mid-December in the wake of meetings that took place as an adjunct to the 10th Arab summit conference in Tunis in November. But Shaykh Sabah said: There is a new development in that North Yemen has expressed its readiness to host the proposed conference.

He added: Kuwait has welcomed such an initiative due of the fact that it is not interested in the venue as much as in an outcome which will eliminate any differences between the two sister countries. He went on to say that contacts are still taking place to set a date for the conference. He expressed the hope that it might be held soon.

Shaykh Sabah denied that the Arabian Gulf states have set a time for a conference of their foreign ministers to be followed by a summit meeting. But he does not see it unlikely that such a meeting will take place.

OMAN

ADEN RADIO REPORTS PFLO LEADER ENDS MIDEAST TOUR

LD271848 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Dec 79 LD

[Text] A delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman [PFLO] led by brother 'Abd al-Aziz al-Qadi, chairman of the PFLO Executive Committee, has ended a tour of Beirut, Damascus and Baghdad. Brother 'Abd al-Aziz al-Qadi said the delegation's talks during the tour had been very positive and had yielded good results.

On relations between the Omani and Palestinian revolutions, brother Al-Qadi said his meetings with several leaders of the Palestine resistance movement had yielded good results in the interests of bilateral relations and those of the Omani and Palestinian revolutions.

The brother chairman of the PFLO Executive Committee said the delegation had met several leaders of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, as well as officials in the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Damascus and Baghdad.

Brother 'Abd al-Aziz al-Qadi said the PFLO delegation's tour had been extremely useful. It occurred during a new stage of the U.S. imperialist, Zionist and reactionary onslaught against the Palestinian cause and Arab causes and in the Oman and Gulf arena; At a time when there were further treasonous fabrications by the Muscat regime against our national and pan-Arab causes; and at a time when this regime was stepping up its role as an advocate and champion of an imperialist military presence in the area and as a steppingstone for imperialist designs and interference in its affairs.

PDRY

YAR MINISTERS ARRIVE FOR UNITY; COOPERATION TALKS

LD271548 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Dec 79 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, today received in his office brothers Husayn ad-Daf'i, member of the Consultative Council and adviser of unity affairs to the president of the northern part of the homeland, and Muhammad al-Ansi, minister of communications and transport in the northern part of the homeland. The meeting covered several issues concerning coordination between the two parts and the work of the unity committees following the unity agreements signed by the two parts.

Brother Lt Col Husayn ad-Daf'i, member of the Consultative Council and adviser to Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the northern part of the homeland, arrived in Aden today. On arrival, he said he will convey a verbal message to brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, from his brother, Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the northern part of the homeland and commander in chief of the armed forces, on the lastest development in the Yemeni arena. He said: We will discuss with our brothers in the southern part of the homeland several issues concerning the two parts.

Brother Ad-Daf'i said a timetable for the work of the unity committee has already been drawn up and they will start work at the beginning of January. Brother Lt Col Husayn ad-Daf'i ended his statement by saying his visit to the southern part of the homeland comes within the framework of the brotherly dialog between the sons of the single homeland. He was received at Aden international airport by brothers Mahmud 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh, member of the Central Committee and minister of communications; Faris Salim, member of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council; and several other brother officials.

Brother Muhammad al-Ansi, minister of communications and transport in the northern part of the homeland, also arrived in Aden today. In a statement on arrival, brother Muhammad al-Ansi expressed his happiness at visiting the southern part of the homeland. He said: We will discuss with our brothers in the south aspects of cooperation in the field of communications. He reiterated that the brother officials in the two parts of the homeland are committed to promoting cooperation in various fields.

Brother al-Ansi, minister of communications and transport, was received on arrival at Aden international airport by brothers Mahmud 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh, member of the Central Committee and minister of communications; Faris Salim, member of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council; Ahmad Salih Abduh, deputy minister of communications; and several other officials in the Communications Ministry and its branches.

SAUDI ARABIA

AL-JAZIRAH WARNS ISLAMIC STATES ABOUT COMMUNIST THREAT

LD280930 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0640 GMT 28 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh--AL-JAZIRAH has warned the Islamic states, particularly the states of Southeast Asia, about the communist threat and called on them to place all their material and moral resources in a state of readiness to confront this threat.

The paper explained that the threat is aimed at Afghanistan, and after that Pakistan and then Iran. It said that communism was determined to make all the states of Southeast Asia subject to the domination of the hammer and the sickle and to efface every Islamic or non-Islamic culture there.

It pointed out that if communism succeeds in dominating Afghanistan and in striking at the Islamic people's revolution, then this will mean that the threat which [words indistinct] went beyond Afghanistan will be a much greater threat than that which beset Afghanistan itself, and could beset the states of Southeast Asia in the event of the triumph of Vietnam in Cambodia, then threatening Thailand, Malaysia and probably Indonesia.

The paper appealed to Islamic states throughout the world to intervene immediately because the people of Afghanistan are alone in the arena in a direct confrontation with communism.

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN DEFENSE, CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENTS ANNOUNCED

LD211814 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1650 GMT 21 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 21 December, SNA--Five royal decrees were issued today, the first and second of which are related to the end of term of office of Gen 'Uthman al-Hamid, chief of the General Staff, and his appointment as assistant to the minister of defense and aviation with the rank of minister.

The third decree appoints Shaykh Kamil Sindi, general director of Saudi Airlines, as assistant to the minister of defense and aviation for civil aviation with the rank of minister. The fourth and the fifth decrees end the term of office of Shaykh 'Abdallah 'Umar Mahdi as head of civil aviation and place him on pension and appoint Shaykh Nasir al-'Assaf Husayn as head of civil aviation with the excellent [as received] rank.

UAE

AL-'UTAYBAH ON OIL SUPPLY, COOPERATION WITH JAPAN

OW270035 Tokyo KYODO in English 0006 GMT 27 Dec 79 OW

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 26 WAM-KYODO--United Arab Emirates Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Mani Sa'id al-'Utaybah warned Wednesday of a recession and high rates of inflation if the petroleum exporting countries go beyond the range of 24-30 dollars per barrel. "If they go beyond this range it would be unreasonable and would have negative effects on world economies," Dr. al-'Utaybah told a group of a national Japanese television network, currently visiting the region.

The minister said that the production of his country depends on world demand and "we would not reduce the level of production to create artificial shortage of oil in world oil markets." He added that such a step would push prices of oil up and "we have to be careful with this."

Dr. al-'Utaybah said that the ministry is preparing technical studies to produce more for the future when demands on oil will be greater. However, he called upon Japan and other industrialized countries to consume less oil and seriously look for other sources of energy.

"We would like to see Japan and other countries establish other relations than "buying and selling oil." We are in need of Japanese technology and knowhow and they are in need of our oil," he said, adding that the United Arab Emirates would like to see the development of relations with Japan to cover agriculture, industrial, economic and cultural fields.

Al-'Utaybah expressed hope that the amount allocated by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to help developing countries and which reached dollar 4 billion, be increased. "We have to do more to these developing countries, which we are part of, he said, adding "These countries are suffering from increases in oil prices, high rates of inflation and commodities imported from the industrialized countries."

Asked about the Palestine problem and its effects on the flow of oil from the Middle East, the minister said that the Palestine problem was the main problem in the area and without reaching a just, comprehensive and durable solution to it there can be no peace and security in the area which he described as "flammable." "Oil and gas are sensitive to fire and we have to work together to solve the Palestine problem and other problems in the area." Dr. al-'Utaybah said that he feels that Western countries did not do enough to solve this problem which they have created. "They are invited to start reaching for a comprehensive, just and durable solution to the people who have been forced out of their lands and have been living for more than 31 years in tents," the minister said.

The minister expressed his appreciation toward the development of already excellent relations linking the United Arab Emirates with Japan and said that further contacts and meetings between officials from both countries would help deepen these relations. He welcomed a visit to be made to the U.A.E. by Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira.

MINISTER REPORTEDLY ESCAPES DEATH BY POISONING IN CARACAS

JN270845 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 27 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 December--The newspaper AL-FAJR issued here today reports that UAE Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah escaped from death by poisoning during the OPEC conference in Caracas. The paper adds that the attempt to assassinate Dr al-'Utaybah took place on 19 December, 1 day prior to the conclusion of the OPEC ministerial conference. An unidentified person put poison in Minister al-'Utaybah's food, but the attempt was discovered. The paper affirms that the Venezuelan authorities are investigating the incident.

YAR

PRESIDENT SALIH ADDRESSES ARMY COMMANDERS 26 DEC

JN261839 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Dec 79 JN

["Text" of speech by YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih at an expanded meeting of Yemeni Army commanders on 26 December--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] We meet today after many of the accomplishments we aspired to for the armed and security forces have been achieved. We thank God the day for the construction of these forces in a scientific and modern way by qualified Yemeni officers has come.

In fact, brothers, our attempts to get our armed and security forces to the level aspired to have borne fruit--thanks to God--and we are now living a stage of precise and comprehensive organization of our armed and security forces. Therefore, we have to safeguard what we have achieved and get rid of past drawbacks and the feeling of irresponsibility. We have to really assume our national responsibility.

The people, government and state lay great hopes on the armed and security forces. Development, freedom, democracy, security and stability cannot be achieved except with the presence of strong and modern armed and security forces. We are all responsible for these forces and have to double our efforts in order to implement the regulations and plans made to develop our armed and security forces.

We reject chaos, passiveness and corruption; we also reject foreign allegiance of all forms and agentry of all kinds. We have a deeply rooted belief in national loyalty and loyalty to the revolution and its principles, making the policy of positive neutrality and nonalinement the basis for our dealing with all world states. I am quite confident that once sincerity and efficiency are instilled in every official and officer we shall be able to achieve all our people's aspirations for the armed and security forces. Nothing whatsoever will hinder us.

Brothers, it is a precious occasion for us today to assess ourselves and our situation and to be true and honest. The situation requires all to work to develop our armed and security forces and to deal with things through reality and not through the deceit from which our forces and country have suffered for a long time. Let us open a new page as of today and take care of our forces' property, which is the property of our people. We shall not be lax or have mercy in inflicting the severest punishment against anyone who tries to tamper with the armed and security forces' funds or makes use of his position, which should be an honorable position that serves the armed and security forces as well as the revolution and republic.

Every commander and officer should be exemplary in his work and his camp. He should refuse intercession and favoritism. Abiding by regulations and laws as well as respecting their implementation should be our principle and slogan for the creation of modern and strong armed and security forces.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE DENOUNCES BEGIN STATEMENTS

NC271354 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 27 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 December--An Egyptian Foreign Ministry official source has announced that the recent statements of Israelis Prime Minister Menahem Begin on Jerusalem, the Israeli forces and the settlements run counter to the provisions and stipulations of the Camp David agreements and to the spirit of the peace agreement.

In an exclusive statement to MENA today, the source announced that in accordance with the Camp David agreements, it is imperative for all the Israeli forces to withdraw from the West Bank and the Gaza sector to specific points to be agreed upon. Consequently, this statement conflicts with the Camp David agreements, in addition to the fact that the policy of setting up settlements is a false and unacceptable policy.

GHALI SUBMITS REPORTS TO PRIME MINISTER KHALIL

NC271515 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1434 GMT 27 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 December--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that at their meeting today, he submitted three reports to Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil. The first report includes a general review of the negotiations on full autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza sector, a review of the progress made since the beginning of the negotiations and of the agreement reached regarding the Palestinian authority and the elections. The report includes also a visualization of the ways to give impetus to the negotiations.

The minister of state for foreign affairs added that the second report deals with the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel in the light of research done by the Egyptian normalization committee and the subcommittees emanating from it. He said that this report deals with all aspects connected with the normalization--economic, cultural, telecommunications and postal aspects. It also includes a study of the technical agreements which must be implemented 6 months after the normalization.

Dr Butrus Ghali went on that the third report deals with the Egyptian diplomatic mission of which the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv will consist. He said that the number of the members of the mission will be restricted at first, and that the embassy will not include any technical diplomatic offices before ratification of the agreements--to be concluded later in accordance with the Camp David accord. He added that the prime minister has asked for the compilation of a comprehensive report, embodying these three reports, to serve as a working paper to be submitted to President Anwar as-Sadat.

AMBASSADOR EXCHANGE WITH ISRAEL MAY OCCUR EARLY

LD281035 Cairo OCTOBER in Arabic 23 Dec 79 p 3 LD

[Unattributed report: "Taha al-Majdub Not Our Ambassador to Israel"]

[Text] A highly placed source has told us that Maj Gen Taha al-Majdub will not be the first Egyptian ambassador to Israel and that no Egyptian ambassador has yet been selected.

The Egyptian Embassy is expected to be in Tel Aviv like the embassies of other countries. The Israeli Embassy [in Cairo] will be in Az-Zamalik quarter. Egypt will offer several apartments and villas from which Israel will choose what might suit it. Israel will do likewise for Egypt.

The Egyptian Ambassador will present his credentials at the residence of Israeli President Navon, that is in the city of Jerusalem, like the rest of the world ambassadors.

The normalization of relations might probably take place 2 weeks ahead of schedule, that is before 26 February.

SOURCE SUPPORTS AFGHAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE AGAINST ATHEISM

NC272256 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2227 GMT 27 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 December--Commenting on the developments in Afghanistan, a responsible Egyptian source has said that Egypt's firm stand is completely opposed to all foreign intervention in any national movement. Egypt supports the Muslim Afghan people who are struggling against the foreign-backed, athiestic forces. This was contained in a report that will be published in the newspaper AL-AHRAM tomorrow.

AL-JUMHURIYAH CRITICIZES KHOMEYNI FOR BRINGING ON SANCTIONS

NC280830 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2320 GMT 27 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 December--Tomorrow's editorial in AL-JUMHURIYAH says that if the Security Council approves the U.S. request for economic sanctions against Iran, the Iranian people--and not Khomeyni and his Revolution Council--will suffer from these sanctions that will harm their daily lives.

The paper stresses that the Iranian people, who were the victims of the former regime, will also be the victim of Khomeyni's era. The Iranian people suffered from the former regime's despotic organs and will again suffer from the whims and recklessness of the present regime.

Thus, the Khomeyni regime and his revolution gave nothing to the Iranian people but exacerbated domestic chaos and instability inside and increased the anger of world public opinion abroad.

The paper questions the real aim behind all this. It says that the Khomeyni revolution has not solved the economic problems, but exacerbated them; has not increased the rates of production, but caused many factories and utilities to stop production; and has not purged the government departments, but spread chaos and terrorism instead.

In conclusion the paper says that this will not be limited to Iran. The problem is that this uncontrollable recklessness may go beyond Iran's borders and spread unduly chaos and riots at regional and international levels.

NEW PETROLEUM AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH SHELL COMPANY

NC271432 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 December--Petroleum minister Engineer Aymad 'Izz ad-Din signed an agreement today with the (Shell Mining) Company on exploring and exploiting petroleum in an area of 25,672 square kilometers in the Sitrah area south of the Al-Qattarah depression in the western desert. The prospecting will last 8 years and cost $83 million.

The agreement provides for sharing the production at a rate of 80 percent for the Egyptian general organization for petroleum and 20 percent for the company.

The agreement also stipulates that the company will pay the organization the sum of $2 million on signing the agreement and a further sum of $4 million as production grants.

INA NOTES PRESENCE OF U.S. NAVAL UNITS NEAR BAHRAIN

JN261226 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Dec 79 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 26 December--INA has learned that a number of U.S. naval units are patrolling Arab waters near the coasts of Bahrain. Observers explain this suspect military move as being an advanced stage in the scheme of the U.S. threat to occupy the oil fields in the area.

These observers confirm that the fabricated Iranian-U.S. crisis over the U.S. hostages in Tehran is [words indistinct] to provide the U.S. administration with a pretext to implement its aggressive scheme.

COMMENTARY IN KURDISH SAYS KHOMEYNI 'U.S. AGENT'

JN261508 Baghdad Domestic Service in Kurdish (Surani) 1700 GMT 25 Dec 79 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] We all know how all the nationalities of the Iranian people struggled to overthrow the shah. However, a new shah has come to power in Iran. Khomeyni is not the only shah; there are many despots and bloodsuckers, the so-called ayatollahs. They are all impersonating an emperor.

The political situation has been deteriorating since last February. The political parties that fought against the shah's regime are now denied their rights and their activities are banned. All Iranian nationalities--Arabs, Turkomen, Kurds, Persians and Baluchis--rejoiced over the collapse of the shah's dark regime. Question: Have the Iranian people achieved their rights and realized their demands under Khomeyni? Certainly not, because Khomeyni claims the Iranian revolution is still in progress. Why? In order to not achieve anything for the Iranian peoples. The revolution has so far managed to overthrow a dictatorial regime and bring about another dictatorial and barbaric regime to replace the shah.

The Iranian situation is worsening. There is a shortage of commodities and the Iranian rulers can no longer meet the needs of the people. The Revolution Guards are not combating agents and opportunists; they are intimidating, robbing and plundering the country's resources. Khomeyni and his clique are well aware of these matters. They are instigating the guards to intimidate Iranian strugglers and make them submit to Khomeyni. Khomeyni will be deluded if he believes he can oppress the people who have brought down the shah. Does Khomeyni know this? Indeed he does. The Iranian people who brandished arms in the face of the shah are capable of doing the same thing to him.

The Iranian people are well aware that Khomeyni, who is an agent of U.S. imperialism, will not remain in power long because he has betrayed his friends and banned the activities of their political parties. Khomeyni has instructed his guards to attack the party of struggler Shari'at-Madari. This is Khomeyni's loyalty. Everyone inside and outside Iran speaks of Khomeyni as being evil.

OIL MINISTER RETURNS TO BAGHDAD AFTER CARACAS MEETING

JN270835 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 27 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 December--Revolution Command Council member and Oil Minister Tayih 'Abd al-Karim returned here at dawn today after participating in the OPEC ministerial conference that was held in Caracas on 19 December.

In a statement to INA, Minister 'Abd al-Karim said Iraq played a prominent role at the conference in bringing the viewpoints of the participating delegations closer, in order to safeguard OPEC's unity and the unity of the oil prices of its member-states. Prior to and after the convocation of the conference, the Iraqi oil minister visited Brazil and Mexico, where he held talks on strengthening relations between Iraq and these countries in the fields of oil and energy.

INFORMATION MINISTER LEAVES FOR RIYADH 22 DECEMBER

JN220807 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 22 Dec 79 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 22 December--Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Latif Nasif Jasim left for Riyadh today, leading a delegation to the Arab Gulf information ministers' meeting, which is to begin there today.

Returns To Baghdad

JN222019 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 22 Dec 79 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 22 December--Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Latif Nasif Jasim and the delegation accompanying him to the Arab Gulf information ministers' meeting returned home today following the conclusion of the meeting in Riyadh earlier today.

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ARRIVES 27 DECEMBER

JN271227 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad--PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd al-Jawad Salim arrived in Baghdad from Kuwait this morning on a visit of several days to Iraq.

VIETNAMESE FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ARRIVES 27 DECEMBER

JN270756 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 27 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 December--Vietnamese Foreign Trade Minister Dang Viet Chau arrived here at dawn today, leading a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq. In a statement to INA, Dang Viet Chau said this visit is intended to bolster the relations of friendship and trade cooperation between Iraq and Vietnam. Dang Viet Chau noted that an agreement on bilateral trade cooperation will be signed during his visit to increase the scope of trade exchange in the common interests of the two fraternal peoples.

Received by Finance Minister

JN271243 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 December--Finance Minister Thamir Razuqi met here today with Vietnamese Foreign Trade Minister Dang Viet Chau and his accompanying delegation.

Discussion during the meeting, which was attended by Vietnamese Ambassador in Baghdad Hoang Duc Phone, dealt with bilateral relations, ways of bolstering them in the economic and financial fields and with the exchange of expertise in these fields, in the interest of the two states' peoples.

The Vietnamese minister arrived in Baghdad earlier today.

BEIRUT AS-SAFIR REPORTS RIFT IN MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

NC271313 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1227 GMT 27 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Beirut, 27 December--The Lebanese daily AS-SAFIR reports today that there has been a rift among members of the Ash-Shura [Consultative] Council of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, the only political party allowed to act openly in the country.

AS-SAFIR says the rift occured following a disagreement at the council about how Jordanian authorities have tackled a scandal which reportedly involved some senior officials and ministers of the outgoing Jordanian Government under the premiership of Mudar Badran. The paper adds that some council members considered last week's cabinet change sufficient in that it removed those involved in the scandal, whereas the hardline members of the council demanded more decisive measures.

AS-SAFIR reports that the disagreement had originally occurred between the grand master [murshid] of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, Dr Muhammad 'Abd ar-Rahman Khalifah, and council member Dr Ibrahim Zayd al-Kilani and Dr 'Abdallah 'Azzam. Dr Khalifah has called for the adoption of peaceful methods to confront the various regimes while the others advocate the adoption of violent methods. The paper says that although the disagreement was settled at the council in favor of those advocating peaceful methods, hardline supporters maintained their view and took action to rally the party's rank and file around them.

CROWN PRINCE HASAN LEAVES ON PRIVATE VISIT TO AUSTRIA

JN270850 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Dec 79 p 1 JN

[Excerpt] Amman--His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Princess Tharwat left Amman for Austria yesterday morning on a private visit of several days.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH ECUADOR

JN241646 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Documents for the establishment of diplomatic relations between Jordan and Ecuador were signed in New York today. The documents were signed for Jordan by its permanent representative to the United Nations Dr Hazim Nusaybah. The documents were signed for Ecuador by its permanent representative to the United Nations.

JORDANIAN-ROMANIAN COMMITTEE SIGNS PROTOCOL

JN231716 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Dec 79 JN

[Text] The meetings of the third session of the joint Jordanian-Romanian committee for economic, technical and scientific cooperation, which began on Thursday, ended today at the National Planning Council offices. During these meetings, the two sides reviewed the economic projects being implemented by Romanian firms in Jordan. The two sides also examined the possibility of further developing economic, technical and scientific cooperation in the future and increasing trade between the two countries.

The two sides signed a protocol containing the results reached during these meetings in the fields of economic, technical and scientific cooperation between the two countries.

In this protocol, the two sides stressed the need to develop and diversify trade between the two countries on the basis of mutual benefit by encouraging commercial firms to expand their activities and also by developing cooperation in the cultural, technical and tourism fields.

The protocol refers to the development of work in the third expansion project of the Jordan petroleum refinery and the high-tension electricity project for southern Jordan, which is being implemented by Romania.

PREMIER MEETS WITH VISITING ROMANIAN MINISTER

JN261649 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Dec 79 JN

[Excerp] Prime Minister ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf today received Romanian Minister of State for Industrial Construction Ion Stanescu. They discussed relations between Jordan and Romania and ways to develop them. The meeting was attended by Minister of Industry and Trade Engineer 'Ali an-Nusur and the Jordanian and Romanian ambassadors in Bucharest and Amman. The Romanian minister left Amman today following a visit of several days to Jordan.

Minister Departs

JN270742 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Dec 79 p 2 JN

[Text] Amman--Romanian Minister of State for Industrial Construction Ion Stanescu left Amman yesterday following a visit of several days to Jordan. During his visit, the Romanian minister held talks with officials in the Ministry of Industry and Trade and at the National Planning Council. The Romanian minister also signed a protocol for bilateral technical, economic and scientific cooperation.

ALGERIA

PRESIDENT BENDJEDID ADDRESSES FLN PARTY MEETING

ID271334 Algiers APS in English 1205 GMT 27 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Algiers, 27/12/79, (APS)--Mr Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic, FLN Party secretary general, opened Wednesday at the People's Palace works of the CC's second session conformingly with the Article 103 of the party's statute and the Article 47 of the interior regulation of the CC.

The CC then constituted the session's bureau composed of Mr Abdelhamid Mehri, Mouloud Qasim, Mustapha Belloucif, and Mohamed Sahnoun. The session is presided over by Mr Chadli Bendjedid.

Five topics were put on the agenda--long term recommendations on the economic and social development; housing; exploitation of hydrologic resources; education, teaching and formation [as received]; the setting of the party's cell within enterprises.

President Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the party declared that "decisions which have been omens meet with our popular masses' hopes".

Before his speech, Mr Chadli asked the participants to observe one minute of silence in memory of President Houari Boumediene and proposed them to baptise the Algiers "Dar el Beida" International Airport and the Algiers "Bab Ezzouar" University at the name of Houari Boumediene.

Mr Chadli announced some measures on the social field waiting for the implementation of the workers' general statute. These measures consist in salaries' readjustments, of certain categories of workers which are to occur starting from January 1st, 1980. It concerns particularly workers of the agrarian sector whose the guaranteed minimum salary is linked up on the national guarantee minimum salary [SNMG].

There is an increase of for [word indistinct] workers of the republic function starting from January 1980 and of 5 percent from October 1980. Wages of the primary and secondary schools and professional training teachers are increased of 10 percent.

President Chadli announced the increase of the former combattants' (moudjahidine) allowances of 25 percent and that of invalids of 100 percent.

The Algerian head of state read an expose on the country's political activity since the end of the first session of the CC. He evoked the achievements in the field of the organisation of the party's structures, among which, the setting up of the CC's commissions, the Politburo departments, the Higher Council of Youth, the audit office, the Council of Security and the commissions of the party in charge with the examination of specific dossiers, such as the organisation of enterprises, has control and the monopoly.

President Chadli declared about the measures occuring in the social field that "it come within the prospect to realize the social justice". He announced then the adoption of a system of (?merit) due to encourage and stimulate the increase of production taking into account the adequate sanctions in case of evoking problems which are to be debated during this session. The party secretary general indicated that they constitute the preoccupation of the citizen in regard to the daily problems [with which] he is confronted.

"It is our duty to adopt more than ever before the scientific planning expected to guarantee a global and balanced development in all fields and to make more efforts in order to exploit our existing means, to master them, more than in the past," Mr Chadli declared.

"In this respect, our policy is not based on the individual. The role of the political leadership embodied in the CC is to take practical decisions which take into account potentialities and needs, and which meet with our popular masses' hopes, these masses who rely on the country's political instances," he added. Evoking the next quinquennial plan, the head of state insisted particularly on the necessity to establish a balance between our potentialities and our needs, and to watch over and safeguard of our oil resources, due to disappear, in preserving them underground, instead of converting them into "multicolour" notes which true value is subject of a daily outbidding.

"I am convinced that the CC will assume its responsibilities and its members will grasp their duties which consist in the necessity to adopt decisive resolutions capable of achieving wishes of our people, affirming continuity of our socialist revolution, in conformity with the national charter and the [word indistinct] party's fourth congress," President Chadli concluded.

ARCHBISHOP DUVAL RETURNS TO ALGIERS FROM TEHRAN

LD272059 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Archbishop of Algeria Msgr Etienne Duval returned to Algiers this afternoon from Tehran accompanied by Abdelkarim Ghraieb, member of the party Central Committee and Algerian ambassador to Iran.

On their arrival at Houari Boumedienne airport, they were received by head of the Asia and Latin American desk at the Foreign Ministry.

Archbishop Duval said on arrival that he and the Americans at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran celebrated Christmas. He expressed gratitude to the Algerian authorities for the facilities they provided him to enable him to perform his mission. He concluded: I have noted the extent of Iran's admiration for Algeria, and that the friendship which binds the two peoples is a positive factor in the course of the Iranian Revolution.

LIBYA

SOVIET ECONOMIC OFFICIAL DEPARTS TRIPOLI

LD271658 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 Dec 79 LD

[Excerpt] Tripoli--V. Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and head of the Soviet side to the joint Arab Libyan-Soviet committee, left Tripoli early this morning at the end of a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, during which bilateral relations in various fields were discussed.

SUDAN

AMBASSADOR TO BAHRAIN COMMENTS ON CAMP DAVID ACCORDS

JN2208181 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0645 GMT 22 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Manama, 22 December--The Sudanese ambassador to Bahrain has said that his country will take a logical, firm and positive stand on Egypt as soon as the latter normalizes relations with and exchanges ambassadors with the Zionist enemy.

Sudanese ambassador Musa al-'Awad Balal affirmed that Sudan's position on the Camp David accords is clear. What has happened recently in Sudan in regard to these accords cannot be considered a transformation, because Khartoum never supported these accords. All that happened was a change in viewpoint and not a total change in stand.

In a statement to the Manama newspaper AL-ADWA', published today, Mr Balal said: Sudan's position on the Camp David accords was clear, in view of the fact that these accords do not serve the purpose or even come close to it. Some parts were vague, others ignored the Palestinian issue, while others were incomplete. Thus, there was never any absolute support for these accords by Sudan.

Regarding the restoration of Sinai to Arab sovereignty, Mr Balal said: Sudan had hoped that the part on Sinai would be the beginning of the enemy's evacuation from the occupied Arab territories. However, after the lapse of more than 1 year since the signing of the accords, nothing new has happened. Therefore, Sudan saw fit to adopt a clearer and more logical stand.

In his statement, the Sudanese ambassador to Bahrain denied that his country has withdrawn its ambassador to Egypt or that it has officially severed relations with it. He said: The withdrawal of ambassadors and the severance of relations are governed by specific and well-known procedures. He pointed out that the recent presence of a Sudanese ambassador in Cairo, prior to his appointment as minister of state, was for the purpose of consultations and other matters.

Mr Musa Balal explained that certain Arab information media focused on and exaggerated certain aspects of Suda's stand, in order to confirm Sudan's absolute support for the Camp David accords. However, Sudan's stand on these accords was clear.

UGANDAN MINISTER TO DISCUSS REOPENING OF KAMPALA EMBASSY

LD271830 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Dec 79 LD/EA

[Text] The Sudan News Agency reports that Mr Otema Alimadi, the Ugandan foreign minister, will visit Khartoum after his current talks in Juba, to review bilateral relations between Sudan and Uganda with officials in the Foreign Ministry.

The Ugandan foreign minister's talks will center on political issues, particularly the reopening of the Sudanese embassy in Kampala.

TUNISIA

SOMALI OFFICIAL DENIES U.S. OFFERED BERBERA BASE

LD281428 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Abdulhamid Yusuf, Somali ambassador to Algeria and permanent delegate to the Arab League, in a statement to TAP, has denied reports circulated by some foreign papers and attributed to some Somali officials that Somalia intends to grant facilities to the United States to use the military base in Berbera.

Abdulhamid Yusuf emphasized the falsehood of these rumors and Somalia's strong concern for its independence, and not to allow any state, whatever the pressures may be, to use part of its territory as a military base in order to maintain the Red Sea and Indian Ocean regions as regions of peace and safety.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO OFFICIAL CALLS ON MOROCCANS TO OVERTHROW KING

LD230131 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0001 GMT 23 Dec 79 LD

[Excerpt] Mohamed Abdul Aziz, POLISARIO secretary general, yesterday gave an interview on Algerian radio and television. In it he calls on the Moroccan people to work for liberation from their shah. In the interview he also deals with the latest meeting of the OAU special committee in Monrovia. He stated that it has adopted resolutions that honors Africa and which are commensurate with its aspirations for the full elimination of colonialism. Mohamed Abdul Aziz continued: The Western Sahara issue is clear and has no ambiguous interpretations.

Concerning the possibility of accepting the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic in the ranks of the OAU, the POLISARIO secretary general explains that this will take place shortly. But the question now is in knowing if the OAU will continue to accept among its ranks a regime that tramples on the main principles of its charter.

Concerning the armed struggle being waged by the Saharan people, Mohamed Abdul Aziz said that the last 4 years of the armed struggle, which have been marked by military victories, have revealed a tangible reality, i.e., there is no power in the world that can triumph over a people who possess their personality and history and who are determined to struggle until the end in the cause of their homeland and independence.

In conclusion the POLISARIO secretary general said: The Moroccan people should liberate themselves from their shah as the Iranian people have done. The Mauritanian people and army have done so by ridding themselves of Mokhtar Ould Daddah.

AUTONOMY TALKS TEAM DISCUSSES AUTHORITY ISSUE

TA271256 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Dec 79 TA

[Text] Today the autonomy negotiations ministerial team began discussing the construction of a model for the powers to be granted the autonomy institutions. In today's meeting it was also determined that a consulting body will be appointed to sit with the team. Team chairman Dr Yosef Burg said at the meeting that a harmful image has been generated implying, as it were, that the team is doing nothing and waiting for the Palestinians. He attacked Shim'on Peres for his statements about autonomy. Dr Burg said such statements were harmful to the progress of negotiations, and that the Israeli team intends to fashion practical limits for the autonomy, while maintaining principles.

Our political correspondent says that the ministerial team will meet again next week, prior to its departure for talks with President as-Sadat in Aswan.

BEGIN SPEAKS ABOUT EASTERN FRONT, EGYPT

TA271116 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 Dec 79 TA

[Text] Today, while visiting an armored corps unit at Ma'ale Ha'adumim, the prime minister said that the northeastern front is turbulent now both near at hand and from afar, and we have to be very careful and vigilant. There is danger from this side, and other difficulties are still to be overcome, but we can prevent the danger. The prime minister expressed hope that we wouldn't be attacked on the eastern front, and said that according to the peace agreements, the Egyptians must not join such an attack. We shall insist that this condition is fulfilled, but we shall remain vigilant on all fronts.

Replying to soldiers' questions, Mr Begin said that the Egyptian nation desires peace, and he added there was no connection between peace and normalization on the one hand and progress in the autonomy talks on the other hand.

Further Details

TA271310 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Dec 79 TA

[Text] The prime minister says that every Jew has a right to buy land throughout Eretz Yisra'el, to build a house and settle. He pointed out that 1 and ½ years ago only one settlement existed in Samaria, whereas today there are 21 settlements there. No area is out of bounds for setting up settlements, Menahem Begin said, including Nabulus. The prime minister was speaking to soldiers of an armored unit at Ma'ale Ha'adumim.

Mr Begin said work on Jabal al-Kabir was proceeding rapidly and the Cabinet would adopt a decision on the subject next week. He reiterated that the sentence of the High Court of Justice should be honored, even though the government wanted Elon More to remain.

As for the autonomy talks, the prime minister stressed there was no link between them and normalization. He admitted that no progress was made on vital issues in those talks, and said that the State of Israel will not negotiate with the PLO, nor can it force the Palestinians to maintain a dialog with Israel.

Regarding the oil in Sinai, the prime minister said we would continue receiving it. One tanker has already reached Elat and another ship is now en route.

DETAILS ON AUTONOMY TALKS DIFFERENCES REPORTED

TA280739 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 28 Dec 79 TA

[Text] A report by our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer on the problems emerging in the autonomy talks follows:

[Schiffer] This is the first time that the usually optimistic chairman of the ministerial team for the negotiations seems to be pessimistic. Dr Burg spoke at the meeting of the team about the possibility that only the three great ones, Carter, Begin and As-Sadat, would be able to resolve the substantial differences of opinion between Israel and Egypt regarding the nature of the autonomy due to be established in the territories. Dr Burg foresaw still another possibility: transferring negotiations on the Palestinian issue to the framework of a Geneva conference.

Yesterday the ministers were presented with a document that had been prepared by the ministers' professional advisers. According to this document, it transpires that practically no progress has been reached during the negotiations on substantial issues. The disagreements are checked off one by one: Israel wants the administrative council to be composed of 11 members; Egypt proposes it number 31 at least, equalling the number of the Tel Aviv City Council. Israel, The administrative council will have executive powers only in limited spheres; Egypt, powers of a legislative and executive authority. The elections to the autonomy institutions: Israel, East Jerusalem residents will not take part in the elections; Egypt, they will participate. Israeli identity cards will be the document presented by the electors; Egypt proposes that consent should also be given to another identity card. The military government in the territories is to be abolished according to the Egyptian position; the government will only withdraw according to the Israeli position.

The source of powers to the autonomy institutions: Israel, the military government; Egypt, the agreement to be reached between the parties. No agreement can be seen on the horizon on the questions of ongoing Israeli settlements and the responsibility for internal security.

The U.S. delegations to the talks proposed appointing a committee to discuss the responsibility for internal security. The Israeli delegations rejects this firmly. The three delegations to the negotiations managed to compose a procedure for the elections to be held in the territories. According to this procedure, the elections will be proportional and based on a majority vote. International media will be allowed to cover them and U.S. jurists will sit on the election committees.

Dr Burg thinks the negotiations teams should continue their work despite the strong differences of opinion. Last night I learned that in the contacts the Egyptians recently held with U.S. personalities, the Egyptians again raised the demand that within the framework of a possible solution of the issue of East Jerusalem, some kind of an Arab flag be hoisted on the Temple Mount. The Egyptians did not make it clear to the Americans which flag they had in mind. The Americans, inter alia Robert Strauss and Sol Linowitz, U.S. representatives to the autonomy talks, forwarded unofficially the ideas they had heard in Cairo. In Israel, that idea has been rejected out of hand. Senior political sources said that the demand had been rejected during the negotiations for the peace treaty at Camp David, and it will be rejected again if it is broached by Egypt.

To sum up all this, it can be said that neither President as-Sadat nor the prime minister will be bored during their meetings in Aswan. The differences of opinion and ways to accomplish a breakthrough in the autonomy negotiations will be raised in the talks between the two leaders.

COMMENTARY ON U.S. POSITION TOWARD ISRAEL, PLO

TA211128 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Dec 79 p 4 (Supplement) TA

[Arye Tzimuqi commentary: "A Change in the U.S. Administration's Position Toward Israel and the PLO, Thanks to Khomeyni"]

[Text] Were there a title "friend of Israeli information activity" the candidate to receive it would be the Ayatollah Khomeyni, he and no other. It was Khomeyni who brought about the major and significant change in Israel's position in the world, in a period of decline in Western public opinion toward Israel, thus providing Israel with the image of a stable and reliable political and strategic element in this stormy and embroiled area.

This assessment of the services that Khomeyni has rendered to us is being heard more and more in Western capitals since the seizing of the hostages in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and even more so, since the PLO presented itself at the side of the Iranian captors.

Take, for example, Israel's ambassador to the United States Efrayim 'Evron. He has had a hard time over the past year and in meeting after meeting between him and members of the administration the latter have complained to him about the "creeping annexation" being systematically carried out by Arik Sharon, about the decline in the attitude of the military government toward the Arab population in the territories, about the wretched Bassam ash-Shak'ah affair, and more and more. On the other hand, he had to repeatedly report to Jerusalem on the continuing and deepening erosion in the U.S. position toward the PLO. All of a sudden, Efrayim 'Evron has started reporting about the positive change that has occured in the U.S. position toward Israel.

Reports from Israel's Embassy in Washington to Jerusalem relate the growing anger among U.S. public opinion in reaction to the cruel mistreatment by the Iranian fanatics, fully supported by the regime there, of the diplomat hostages. They tell of the ever increasing U.S. concern in view of the danger that extreme Muslim fanaticism will spread in Arab countries. They tell of the growing waves of anti-American enmity in the countries of the region and of the renewed surge of Soviet influence there. At the same time, 'Evron has reported that the erosion in the U.S. position toward the PLO has halted and the United States is coming to its senses more and more on this issue.

On a more practical level, the ambassador, who has repeatedly over the past year taken a pessimistic view of the chances of increasing military and economic aid to Israel in the next budgetary year, has recently been making the hopeful assessment that the administration might increase military and economic aid.

'Evron's predecessor in Washington, Simha Dinitz, has recently returned from a visit to the United States where he met with members of the administration whom he knows well from days of service there, including Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, his aide Philip Habib, Ambassador Sol Linowitz and others. He found far-reaching changes in their approach to the problems of the region. First and foremost Dinitz noticed a great degree of disappointment merged with anger and reservation with the PLO which is now being described as a partner in international terror and an enthusiastic supporter of the Iranian Khomeynism which is hated above everything else in the United States. In fact, many of his interlocutors identified the PLO with international terrorism, with fanatical Khomeynism and with a blind anti-American approach, all of which derive from the same source.

According to Dinitz, the immediate result has been a significant change in Israel's image which is now one of a solid, stable and reliable element which can be trusted in time of trial and crisis. Israel was defined by many of Dinitz' interlocutors as "the bastion of Western democracy in the embroiled area," with the accent not being on democracy per se but on firm support for Western democracies. At the same time, there has also been a significant strengthening of Egypt's position as a pro-Western element which has to be cultivated, strengthened and encouraged, especially in its political moves.

The welfare of Egypt, which is isolated in the Muslim world, is now a source of great concern in the United States. The Americans hold in esteem the great sacrifice As-Sadat made in severing his relations with the rejectionist countries and in putting an end to receiving military aid from the Soviet Union.

In talks with Israeli officials in Washington the Americans clarified their motives behind the decision to supply Egypt with large quantities of sophisticated weapons, in addition to the economic aid that has been and will be given to Egypt. Since 1974 Egypt has not been getting Soviet military supplies and its stockpiles are running short, while the rejectionist countries are ceaselessly receiving large quantities of arms which they are unable to absorb. Military experts from the United States and other countries assess that, in fact, the Soviet Union has turned the rejectionist countries into huge stockpiles for various weapons including huge quantities of very sophisticated weapons, which are not required for the security of these countries.

The deep operative Soviet penetration of these various Arab countries which, in the wake of this have reached dangerous levels of military power, is a source of major concern for the Americans. Libya, for example, has received such huge amounts of Soviet supplies that most of it is still in the original packages in underground bunkers due to a lack of a military force able to absorb it. Syria, Iraq and the two Yemens are all lavishly equipped with Soviet arms and they are also receiving large quantities of British and French arms as well. In the past 2 years, our eastern neighbor, Jordan, has also armed itself with arms from France and Britain as well as from other sources, the purchase of which has been financed by the hundreds of millions of dollars which it received for this purpose from the oil rich rejectionist countries.

"The storm rages around us," this line from the Palmach anthem perhaps best describes the predicament in which Israel finds itself today.

It is against this background that one can understand, if not agree with, the American motive in rejecting Israel's reservations against supplying military aid to Egypt and also to Saudi Arabia.

As for Egypt, the Americans have clarified to Israel that we, as they, must sober up and understand that one cannot abandon a nation that is friendly to the West such as Egypt--especially a country that has made such revolutionary moves in turning its back on the Soviets and the Arab rejectionist front. "It is not only we who have to strengthen the Egyptians militarily," the Americans tell us; "you, the Israelis must also do so in order to prevent, at all costs, the Egyptians from going to other sources, perhaps even to the Soviets, to obtain military aid."

Most of these American contentions have been accepted by the Israeli leadership. Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's approach, which called for careful attention, only through diplomatic channels, without raising our voice over this issue, was carried against those ministers, including Nisim, Tamir and others who continued the line that Dayan used to adopt calling for a very loud reaction to this.

The Israeli reaction to the U.S. arms deal with Saudi Arabia was different even though, on this issue too, there was discussion in Jerusalem on "which octave" should be used in the Israeli protest. The Americans repeatedly said that they are very much aware of what is going on in Saudi Arabia where there is ferment which was manifest, among other places, at the Great Mosque of Mecca, but not only there. The Americans even admit the fact that the vast quantity of arms that was given in the past to the Iranian shah fell into the hands of their firm enemies, Khomeyni and his men, and the same thing could happen in the Arabian Peninsula. However, the Americans maintain that they have no choice but to strengthen the existing regime in Riyadh.

The Americans are aware and know that their hesitation vis-a-vis Khomeyni brought about a credibility crisis concerning them in the Persian Gulf. "How can one rely on the Americans who are impotent in the face of the kidnapers of the members of its embassy in Tehran?" This is the question that is being asked in the whole of the area, even in those countries in the Gulf who maintain friendly relations with the United States. If, God forbid, the same happens in another country as happened in Iran and the Americans do not react quickly and severely, vital American interests will be in great danger throughout the world. It is for this reason that the Americans reject Israel's opposition to providing massive military aid to Saudi Arabia.

MK Yitzhaq Rabin, who returned from the United States last week, believes that we can now expect a year of increased friendship with the United States as long as we ourselves do not make unnerving and provocative political mistakes which will force Washington, against its will, to react severely. There is a great chance now for dialog with the Americans on global strategy with Israel having a positive placement therein. In Rabin's opinion, one can now find a great degree of understanding for Israel's demands for military strengthening. The former prime minister maintains that it would be better to take advantage of the supply of arms to Egypt and to Saudi Arabia in order to increase our demands as firmly as possible.

This contention by Rabin is especially important in view of the possibility of increased military tension on the northern border. Al-Asad, who is suffering greatly from the ceaseless ferment amont the various sects and within his main pillar, the army, might face the temptation of adopting the "usual" solution in such cases--the artificial creation of tension on the Israeli-Syrian border in order to defuse the domestic tensions within his country.

Recent developments in Iran have brought new assessments and thoughts in the United States on other issues as well, the main one being, from our point of view, the attitude to the PLO.

While the affair of the kidnaping of the American diplomats was still young the PLO tried to play the role of mediator, making efforts to bring about the release of the hostages. It took no time for them to show their real faces when they unreservedly stood at the side of the fanatic students. The result was a change in the U.S. position toward the PLO's status in the negotiations on the autonomy.

Like the Israelis, the Americans are convinced that the Egyptians will implement the Camp David agreements. The question that worries them now is how it will be possible to bring Jordan into the negotiating process on the future of the West Bank and how it will be possible to change the attitude of Saudi Arabia toward these negotiations.

Like other Israelis, Simha Dinitz gained the impression during his talks in Washington that now there is a desire and willingness there to solve the Palestinian problem without the PLO being the best man in the solution.

"The Jordanian option" is again being raised as an issue for discussion as a possibility for finding a solution to the West Bank. U.S. administration officials hope that this option exists, and one should not despair of it, that it is possible to bring Jordan in as an active or passive partner in negotiations on the future of the West Bank while achieving an understanding--at least--for such a move from Saudi Arabia. We hold the cards for such a move, the administration officials say. Israel must create the necessary conditions for making the negotiations attractive for Husayn. Only if Jordan feels that it has something to gain from such negotiations, both functionally in the autonomy and as a territorial partner in a final peace settlement, will it be possible to bring Jordan to the negotiating table. This is what Dinitz heard from his American interlocutor.

Many personalities in the United States have expressed the opinion that a solution to the Palestinian problem is only possible in the framework of a territorial compromise which will determine the eastern border between Israel and Jordan in accordance with Resolution 242. Dinitz goes on to say that those who expressed this opinion to him maintain that the Camp David agreements view the autonomy as an interim stage which will lead to a permanent and final solution.

Whoever thinks that after the Likud leaders approved the autonomy plan, the plan for a territorial compromise has been ruled out is mistaken. It is the moves toward the establishment of the autonomy without the participation of Jordan which has enhanced the status of the PLO and turned it into a "potential partner." Dinitz continues his analysis by saying that now with the PLO's face having been revealed in all its political ugliness the strength of those calling for a solution based on a compromise with Jordan has increased. There are those who believe that Egypt and Jordan, despite their lip service to the PLO, would prefer such a solution.

It was none other than President Carter who said in a conversation with Begin that most Arab countries have reservations about the establishment of an independent Palestinian state which, by nature, would be under PLO control and a destructive element in the Arab world as it would be a destructive element to Israel and the whole of the West.

On the other hand, it transpires that the Allon plan has never been more popular among American politicians as a possibility of solving the Palestinian problem with the participation of Jordan.

It was not by chance, therefore, that Ambassador Linowitz turned to Jordan and to Saudi Arabia in order to hold talks with their leaders on the autonomy issue, talks to be held during his next visit to the area in January.

QIRYAT ARBA' TO EXPAND TOWARD HARSINA HILL AREA

TA280945 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Dec 79 p 1 TA

[By Yehuda Litani]

[Text] The Israeli land authority has recently located a large area of state-owned land in the "Harsina" hill area near Qiryat Arba'.

It has been learned that a new quarter of Qiryat Arba' consisting of some 500 apartments will be established on the site. "Harsina" hill (named after reserves Colonel Harsina) has been the target of several "settlement" attempts by the residents of Qiryat Arba'. However, all these attempts encountered the opposition of the military government and the settlers were removed from the site.

It should be noted that the new quarter will not be connected to Qiryat Arba' because there are tracts of Arab-owned land between the Harsina hill and Qiryat Arba'.

The (AT-TALI'AH) magazine (the organ of the Communist Party in the West Bank printed in East Jerusalem) yesterday carried a report that farmers living in the vicinity of Qiryat Arba' (in the Al-Bakkah and (Al-Bawirah) areas) have been banned from working their land since they were being marked by the military government. Last night the military government said that no land has been recently seized in that area.

SABOTAGE NEAR JORDANIAN BORDER REPORTED

TA271050 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 27 Dec 79 TA

[Text] A sabotage device blew up last night underneath a culvert south of Moshav Zofar in the 'Arava [eastern Negev]. The IDF spokesman reports that searches showed traces of two people who penetrated from Jordan and returned there after planting the charge.

UN FORCES COMMANDER COMMENTS ON UNIFIL'S ROLE IN LEBANON

TA271523 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 27 Dec 79 TA

[Text] The commander of the UN forces in the Middle East who is now retiring has pointed to the dangers remaining in southern Lebanon. This is how General Ensio Siilasvuo described the situation to our reporter Alan Ben-'Ami. [begin recording]

[Siilasvuo] The Lebanese are, of course, is from the UN point of view a very difficult one, and especially as I cannot see any easy solutions there.

[Ben-'Ami] What makes the difficulties for the UN there? What do you see as the principal problems?

[Answer] Let's say that from the very beginning UNIFIL was facing a most difficult problem and the most difficult situation. It was not operating between two responsible governments as was the case in the Sinai or in the Golan, but there UNIFIL has to face different factions or groups of people, and, in an area where the government of Lebanon has no authority.

[Question] And yet UNIFIL's specific mandate, its order to its force in the field, was to prevent what we call armed elements from infiltrating into southern Lebanon. Why isn't the UN, despite the difficulties, more vigorously carrying out its orders in removing these armed elements?

[Answer] I would say that also in trying to stop infiltration UNIFIL has tried to do its best. It is, however, not any easy task, and everybody knew, including the Israeli authorities, that the borders of the UNIFIL area of operations cannot be made watertight.

[Question] It has been said that in fact one of the reasons for these armed elements, these terrorists, being in the area is because the secretary general of the UN reached agreement with the PLO which will allow these people to stay in southern Lebanon, to operate in southern Lebanon. Is that correct?

[Answer] I am not aware of this agreement.

[Question] Do you suspect such an agreement?

[Answer] No comment.

[Question] From time to time there is criticism made by UN officials, as well as others, that Israel is not doing all it could be doing to help the situation in Lebanon. Do you share that criticism?

[Answer] I feel that one should not criticize anybody too much in the question of Lebanon. One should also admit that there have been great efforts on the part of the UN and Israel to find solutions to the problems in the area.

[Question] At the moment it looks as if the UNIFIL force is going to become almost as permanent as the other UN forces in the Middle East. Is that your expectation at the moment?

[Answer] Yes, it is my expectation because it seems that each time the mandate is being renewed, everybody realizes that the withdrawal of UNIFIL would lead to a still more difficult situation.

[Question] You are leaving the Middle East now in a period of relative calm between Israel and its Arab neighbors but a period of general turmoil in the region as a whole: the events in Iran, the events recently in Saudi Arabia. Looking ahead a little, do you see the UN playing a bigger role, a bigger peace-keeping role, or do you think, as is happening in Sinai, that the UN role and activity is going to diminish in the near future?

[Answer] The more we reach the stage of a comprehensive settlement, the smaller the UN role will be, but I can see still for some time to come some kind of a UN presence in the area. [end recording]

AFGHANISTAN

KABUL REPORTS AMIN MEETING WITH SOVIET MINISTER 27 DEC

BK271647 Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 27 Dec 79 BK

[Text] Comrade Hafizollah Amin, secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council and the prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, received today for a courtesy call in the People's Hall at 1430, Mr Nikolay Vladimirovich Talyzin, the Soviet minister of communications. At this meeting, the minister of communications, [name indistinct], and Soviet ambassador in Kabul were present.

The Soviet minister of communications has arrived in Kabul on an official and friendly visit.

KABUL ANNOUNCES PRESIDIUM OF NEW REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL

LD280004 Kabul in Dari to Europe 2210 GMT 27 Dec 79 LD

[Announcement by the Secretariat of the Afghan Revolutionary Council--read in both Dari and Pashto]

[Text] The Presidium of the Revolutionary Council are:

Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, and president of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan;

Asadollah Sarwari, vice president of the Revolutionary Council;

Soltan 'Ali Kishtmand, vice president of the Revolutionary Council;

The following are members of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council: Nur Ahmad Nur; Brig Gen 'Abdol Qader; Lt Col Mohammad Aslam Watanjar; and Lt Col Gol Aqa.

Other members of the Revolutionary Council will be announced later.

AFP Reports New Cabinet

NC280816 Paris AFP in English 0811 GMT 28 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 28 (AFP)--The new Afghan regime headed by Babrak Karmal, who yesterday toppled President Hafizollah Amin, today appointed a new cabinet to work in collaboration with a five member Revolutionary Council, Radio Kabul reported.

Mr. Karmal, the Soviet-backed strongman, has been appointed president, prime minister and head of the Revolutionary Council, the radio said. Brigadier Mohammad Rafia has been appointed defence minister and Mohammad Gulabozai, interior minister. Shah Mohammad Dost, former deputy foreign minister, has been named foreign minister, and Sherjan Mazdoor Yar, ousted by Mr Amin in September, has been appointed minister for transport. The cabinet also includes a woman, Anahita, to head the Education Ministry.

Other members of the cabinet are: Mohammad Khan Jalala, responsible for commerce, Faiz Mohammad, responsible for frontier affairs, Sultan Mohammad Kishtmand, minister for planning, and Abdul Wakil, minister for finance.

The cabinet will be expanded later when ministers for justice, higher education, cultural affairs and information are appointed, the radio said.

Brigadier Abdul Qadir Dagarwal, Col. Aslam Watanjar, Asadullah Sarwari and Nur Muhammed Nur have been appointed Revolutionary Council members, Kabul Radio added. Mr Dagarwal and Mr Watanjar were involved in the coup which ousted the moderate regime of Sardar Muhammed Daud in April 1978.

Soviet Assistance Requested

LD280034 Kabul in Dari to Europe 2225 GMT 27 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Announcement by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan:

Because of the continuation and expansion of aggression, intervention and provocations by the foreign enemies of Afghanistan and for the purpose of defending the gains of the Sawr Revolution, territorial integrity, national independence and the preservation of peace and security, and on the basis of the treaty of friendship, good-neighborliness and cooperation dated 5 December 1978, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan earnestly demands that the USSR render urgently political, moral, and economic assistance, including military aid, to Afghanistan.

The Government of the USSR has accepted the proposal of the Afghan side.

Amin's Execution Announced

LD280017 Kabul in Dari to Europe 2245 GMT 27 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Announcement by the revolutionary tribunal:

The revolutionary tribunal has sentenced to death Hafizollah Amin for the crimes he has committed against the noble people of Afghanistan. As a result of these crimes many of the noble compatriots of Afghanistan, including (?active members) and members of the civilian and military services, as well as representatives of the enlightened religious leaders, intellectuals, workers and farmers [words indistinct].

The sentence of the tribunal has been carried out.

AFP on Coup

NC271702 Paris AFP in English 1659 GMT 27 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 27 (AFP)--A coup d'etat in Afghanistan has overthrown President Hafizollah Amin, Tehran Radio announced, quoting Kabul Radio.

PARS NEWS AGENCY meanwhile said that Babrak Karmal, prime minister under the regime of former President Nur Mohammad Taraki, had proclaimed himself head of state. Karmal said in a message broadcast by Radio Kabul that he promised to grant "democratic freedoms" to the people of Afghanistan.

"The Afghan people also demand the release of all political prisoners (?and the) creation of jobs to give work to the unemployed," PARS quoted Mr. Karmal as saying.

In his radio statement, monitored in Tehran, Mr. Karmal said that the "fascist regime" of Hafizollah Amin had been overthrown. He praised ex-President Taraki as a "martyr of the revolution" and said, "we have returned to power." He pledged that "criminals from the Amin regime" would be brought to justice.

Iranian postal authorities said that telephone communications between Iran and Afghanistan had been cut off after the reported coup.

The Afghan Islamic opposition movement "Jamiat Eslami", reached by telephone, called Mr. Karmal a "direct agent" of the Soviet Union. It said he was a founder member of the Afghan Communist Party, of which he represented the "most hard-line pro-Soviet tendency."

In his Radio Kabul address, Mr Karmal said that "foreign policy will be based on non-alignment and we will develop friendly relations with all peoples of the world." He added, however, that Afghanistan would "line up with populations fighting against imperialism and Zionism.

He said that the new authorities would "attempt to resolve military problems through political channels."

"All democratic freedoms, particularly concerning political parties, mass organizations, freedom of the press and freedom of assembly, will be guaranteed," he said.

Afghanistan will respect "all accords and treaties with the other countries of the world, and particularly with the United Nations," Mr. Karmal added."

The Afghanistan "Revolutionary Council" meanwhile has announced its support for Mr. Karmal in a statement condemning "the bloody oppression of Amin."

In a communique broadcast by Radio Kabul, monitored in Tehran, the council announced its "determination" to help restore freedom, find work for the unemployed and land for the farmers. (In Washington, however, U.S. monitoring services were unable to confirm the overthrow of President Amin. Sources there said that shortly before the Iranian news agency PARS reported the coup, Washington was picking up normal broadcasts from Kabul, but the reception was poor and became inaudible shortly thereafter). In its statement, the Revolutionary Council called on Afghanistan's armed forces to remain "vigilant, disciplined and united" to prevent "the enemies of freedom, independence and territorial integrity from infiltrating (its) ranks." The council added that "Amin's criminals" would be brought to trial to face "the anger of the people."

Promising to respect "the rights of all Afghan nationalities and ethnic groups," the council also pledged to respect "the holy religion of Islam and its religious community." "The principles of the family and private property will be guaranteed," the statement added.

Following the coup announcement, Kabul Radio played uninterrupted light music, giving no details as to the circumstances of the overthrow. Meanwhile all attempts to make telephone and Telex contact with Kabul from Tehran were still unavailing.

Foreign radio reports monitored in Islamabad said that street fighting was continuing in Kabul and that there had been shooting in the palace.

Fighting was also reported around the Kabul Radio station. Afghan refugees in Islamabad said that the fact that the Kabul station continued broadcasting after its usual closing time of 1900 GMT indicated trouble in the capital.

Contacted by telephone from Tamabjd, a leader of the [word indistinct] opposition group [word indistinct] Islami Afghanistan" told AFP: "For us (?Babrak Karmal is) another picture of Amin. [word indistinct] He has the [word indistinct] of the Russians," he added.

The fact that the Soviet station Radio Tajikistan broadcasting from Tashkent announced the coup (?very rapidly) indicates that Mr Karmal has Moscow's blessings, Afghan rebel leaders said, vowing to continue to struggle against "any Soviet-backed regime" in Kabul.

AFP CITES KABUL RADIO ON 'SOVIET HELP'

NC280807 Paris AFP in English 0802 GMT 28 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 28 (AFP)--The Soviet Union provided "moral, financial and military help" to the revolutionary government of Babrak Karmal in yesterday's overthrow of former President Hafizolloah Amin, Radio Kabul reported today.

The radio said the revolutionary government under the Dec 1978 agreement of friendship between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union requested Moscow's support to crush "external and internal enemies". The request was accepted and "an agreed number of Soviet troops and experts arrived in Afghanistan", the radio said.

Western diplomatic sources said earlier that the Soviet troops directly participated in the fighting in Kabul yesterday.

The Soviet Union has also reportedly accused the Amin regime of following "dictatorial policies", describing him as an "imperialist agent", and welcomed the takeover by Mr Karmal, the radio said.

Amin Supporters 'Eliminated'

NC280831 Paris AFP in English 0819 GMT 28 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 28 (AFP)--A revolutionary court sentenced President Hafizollah Amin to death and the former Marxist ruler and his supporters have been "eliminated", Radio Kabul reported today.

The extreme leftist regime of Babrak Karmal, which ousted Mr Amin 92 days after he came to power, tried the former president for his "tyrannical rule and dictatorial policies", the radio said. Other members of Mr Amin's group would also be tried for their "crimes against the Afghan nation" and would be dealt with severely, the radio said.

In a speech over Radio Kabul today, Mr. Karmal repeated his pledge to restore democratic rule in Afghanistan. He said his government would follow a foreign policy of peaceful independence and would particularly strive for friendly relations with neighbouring Islamic states.

Mr. Karmal, an ex-patriate politician, seized power from Mr. Amin yesterday in Afghanistan's fourth coup since it was proclaimed a republic in 1973. Radio Kabul said the takeover was aided by the Soviet Union.

INDIA

DELHI REPORTS ON EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

BK280406 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0245 GMT 28 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The president of Afghanistan, Hafizollah Amin, has been executed following a coup. Kabul Radio said the coup was led by former Vice President and Deputy Prime Minister Karmal. He has taken over as the chairman of the Revolutionary Council as well as the chief of the Khalqi Party. The radio interrupted its normal program last night and announced that Mr Amin has been replaced by Mr Karmal. It said that Mr Amin has been sentenced to death after a trial for crimes against the people of Afghanistan. Mr Karmal has announced the names of the members of the Revolutionary Council: Mr Asadollah Sarwari and Mr Soltan Ali Kishtmand would be the two vice chairmen. Other members of the council include Nur Mohammad Nur, Brig Gen Abdul Qadir and Lt Col Gol Aqa.

The new government has sought immediate economic, political and military help from the Soviet Union under the treaty signed between the two countries in December last year. The Soviet Union has accepted the request of the Afghan Government.

Mr Karmal said that his country wants to expand its relations with India. He said Afghanistan would honor all existing agreements with other nations and develop relations with neighboring and Muslim countries.

Speaking over the radio, Mr Karmal said that the fascist regime of Hafizollah Amin had been overthrown. He said all political prisoners will be released and democratic freedom extended to the people of Afghanistan. He said power has been transferred into the hands of real revolutionaries. Mr Karmal declared that the gain of the April Revolution will be protected. He said the people were subject to violence and torture from the government of Hafizollah Amin, which he described as the agent of U.S. imperialism.

Mr Karmal announced that revolutionary and religious courts would try what he called the executioners in the Amin regime.

The Soviet news agency TASS reported without comment the new Afghan leader's statement that the bloody dynasty of Hafizollah Amin has been destroyed.

The American State Department said in Washington that it had earlier received reports of street fighting in Kabul. A White House spokesman said that President Carter is returning to Washington today from Camp David to discuss among other things the situation in Afghanistan with his foreign policy advisers.

Mr Karmal was for some time a member of the government of Nur Mohammad Taraki which came into power in April last year. He left the Taraki administration last year and went to Eastern Europe. Mr Taraki was replaced by Mr Hafizollah Amin in September this year.

Afghan Embassy Security Tightened

BK280858 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Dec 79 BK

[Text] Security measures have been tightened in the Afghan Embassy premises in New Delhi following a coup in Kabul. The embassy counsellor, Mr A.M. Saleh, told the AIR [All India Radio] correspondent that the embassy has had no contact with his foreign office so far.

The Afghan ambassador, Mr Pacha Gul Wafadaar, is in Bangkok where he had gone to present his credentials to the king of Thailand. Mr Wafadaar has been concurrently accredited to Bangkok as his country's envoy.

GOVERNMENT EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER AFGHAN SITUATION

PA281339 Paris AFP in English 1321 GMT 28 Dec 79 PA

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 28 (AFP)--India today expressed its "earnest hope" that no country or external power would take steps which might aggravate the situation in Afghanistan.

An official statement on the coup in Afghanistan issued here today said that India supported the sovereign right of the Afghan people to determine their own destiny free from foreign interference.

The Soviet Union informed India late last night, after the coup had taken place, that it had sent its troops to Afghanistan to enable it to "resist external aggression and interference." Just before midnight Soviet ambassador Yuri Vorontsov called on foreign secretary R.D. Sathe to inform the Indian Government that a contingent of Soviet forces had been sent to assist the "Afghan authorities."

The ambassador did not elaborate on the "external threat" (?faced) by Afghanistan but generally spoke about the situation there. He did not make any reference to the coup which had taken place by that time, it was learnt.

According to a Foreign Ministry spokesman, (?R.D. Sathe) informed the ambassador that India was awaiting a report from its mission in Kabul.

BANGLADESH RIFLES OPEN FIRE IN BELONIA

BK280800 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 28 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The Bangladesh Rifles last evening opened unprovoked firing from across the border in Belonia char land in south Tripura district. Giving this information, a senior BSF [Border Security Force] official told the AIR [All India Radio] Agartala correspondent this morning that firing continued for nearly 4 hours. He said automatic weapons were used by the Bangladesh Rifles in the firing. BSF jawans [soldiers] returned the fire in self-defense.

There is no report of any casualty.

TWO MINISTERS TAKE ON ADDITIONAL PORTFOLIOS

BK280850 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0840 GMT 28 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The president of India, on the advice of the prime minister, has directed that S.N. Kacker will also hold charge of Ministry of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilizers in addition to his existing charge.

CHAVAN DELIVERS ELECTORAL PROMISES IN BROADCAST SPEECH

BK271657 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 27 Dec 79 BK

[Election broadcast by Congress-U leader Y.B. Chavan--recorded]

[Summary] "My countrymen, I am happy to have this opportunity of sharing my thoughts with you at a very crucial moment in the history of modern India. Today the nation stands in the crossroads of destiny and the path which India will traverse in the near future would

At this juncture I am approaching you as a humble representative of a proud party, namely the Indian National Congress--the party which won independence under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru, the party which has endeavored over the last 30 years or so to build a strong and modern India. We are again seeking your valuable support in the battle of ballot so that we may carry on the unfinished revolution of creating a self-reliant and strong nation where every citizen is assured of freedom, equality, justice and dignity.

"In 1977, your vote brought Janata Party to power. As true democrats, we accepted your verdict with all humility and sat in the opposition. But all of you are aware that the Janata conglomerate crumbled under the weight of its own contradiction. For two-and-half years the Janata government remained busy in internal wrangles and in fighting though the Janata Party had the requisite popular mandate, its regime was characterized by total lack of performance." Thus, the Janata Party betrayed the confidence which the people of India had reposed in it.

"On the other side of the spectrum is the Congress-I, which clearly seeks to perpetuate personal and dynastic rule. It is carrying on a motivated propaganda about so-called stability. I think the people are entitled to ask the question: Stability of whom and for what?"

Our concept of stability is poles apart from that of the Congress-I. We believe that stability means the continuity of the basic institutions and values cherished by the nation and continuing progress toward the ideals so dear to the nation during the struggle for freedom. The Congress Party has always worked for the formation of a free democratic and economically strong India. I would like to reiterate our commitment to planning in which the public sector commands a crucial role. I would also like to assure scientists and workers--together the backbone of the country--that the Congress will do everything possible to improve the quality of their lives.

The Congress Party is fully committed to improving the rural people. We will vigorously enforce the land-ceiling laws and take steps for the speedy allotment of surplus land to the needy. We will also provide free housing-sites to the rural poor to build houses. We want to abolish once for all rural indebtedness in all its forms.

The Congress Party will also work relentlessly against poverty, unemployment and inequality of wealth and income. The untouchable and backward classes will be given special favors in all walks of life, especially in the reservation of jobs. Our party will not impose any language on anyone.

"Our party believes that an independent judiciary is an imperative for democracy and we stand firmly committed to it. While reaffirming our faith, I would also like to emphasize that justice delayed is justice denied. Our endeavor will be to provide free legal aid to the poor."

We would like to emphatically assure that Congress will never allow any abridgment of the legitimate rights of journalists, nor will it allow any type of censorship to be imposed. "We stand for the freedom of the press unequivocally. The spirit of democracy can survive and triumph only if the press is free."

"In the field of foreign policy, the Congress is firmly committed to the policy of nonalinement, which was fashioned by the far-seeing genius of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. We will pursue a policy which seeks to eliminate the evils of imperialism, colonialism and racism. It will be our endeavor to strengthen our friendship with all nations--big or small--especially with our immediate neighbors and with those who had stood by us in our moments of crisis."

I appeal to you all to strengthen the Congress by voting for its candidates because your vote for the Congress is a vote for the unity and strength of the nation.

MINISTER ON DEFENSE, NUCLEAR PLANS

BK271110 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0245 GMT 27 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The union defense minister, Mr C. Subramaniam has said that the country is now going in for an ambitious research and development program to attain self-sufficiency in defense preparedness in the 90's. Speaking to newsmen in Madras, he said India should have to reconsider its nuclear policy if Pakistan goes nuclear. The Pakistan president General Ziaul Haq, is reported to have said recently that they would get their nuclear results within a year, the defense minister added.

PAKISTAN

KARACHI RADIO REPORTS ON AFGHANISTAN SITUATION

BK280330 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Dec 79 BK

[Text] Radio Kabul has reported that President Hafizollah Amin's government has been overthrown and he has been executed. Earlier, a revolutionary tribunal had sentenced him to death for his involvement in crimes against the Afghan people.

According to Kabul Radio, Babrak Karmal has been nominated secretary general of the Central Committee of the ruling People's Democratic Party and president of the Revolutionary Council. Asadollah Sarwari has been nominated vice president. The names of other members of the council announced by the radio include Brig Gen Abdul Qadir Dagarwal and Lt Col Aslam Watanjar, a minister in late president Nur Mohammad Taraki's cabinet. A former Afghan ambassador in the United States, Nur Mohammad Nur, is also included as a member of the council. The radio reported that the names of remaining members of the council will be announced later.

You might recall that Hafizollah Amin had overthrown the government of President Nur Mohammad Taraki on 14 September of this year and President Taraki had been killed in the process.

Earlier, the Soviet news agency TASS issued a statement by the new Afghan president Babrak Karmal in which he said that he had assumed control of the country. Radio Moscow also broadcast excerpts of an announcement by the Afghan Revolutionary Council following the overthrow of Amin's government.

Kabul Radio broadcast a statement by Babrak Karmal in which he said that the fascist government of Hafizollah Amin had been overthrown. He announced that persons who committed crimes in Amin's government would be tried. He said that the new government would try to solve politically the military problems. He pledged to release political prisoners, restore democratic rights and respect Afghanistan's treaties with other countries. He said that his government will develop relations with neighboring and Islamic countries.

Mr Karmal, in his statement, eulogized former Premier Nur Mohammad Taraki and described him as a martyr of the revolution.

Following the announcement of the coup, Radio Kabul continued broadcasting light music. However, it did not report in detail the overthrow of the government.

Earlier, the U.S. State Department reported fighting in Kabul streets. A Washington spokesman stated that it appeared to be a clash between opponents of the government and government troops. According to BBC, heavy fighting started at night in Kabul, where tanks and artillery were used.

Babrak Karmal, who was the vice president and deputy prime minister in the late President Nur Mohammad Taraki's first cabinet, was expelled from the party when he visited Eastern Europe last year.

According to Kabul Radio, the new Afghan Government appealed to the Soviet Union for immediate political, moral and economic help including military aid. The mdio said that the Soviet Union accepted the request.

Karmal Address Reported

BK280658 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 28 Dec 79 BK

[Text] In Afghanistan, Babrak Karmal, who assumed the office of premier after toppling the government of President Hafizollah Amin last night, spoke on Kabul Radio. Mr Karmal denounced the Amin government and described it as an authoritarian, suppressive and genocidal regime and said that the former premier had been eliminated and his associates would be tried for their crimes.

As reported earlier by Kabul radio, a revolutionary tribunal sentenced President Amin to death for his crimes against the Afghan people. Mr Karmal in his address pledged that persons affected morally or materially during the former regime would be compensated. He said that political prisoners would be freed and democratic freedoms guaranteed.

Mr Karmal said that his country will adhere to a peaceful and nonalined foreign policy and would develop friendly relations with all countries, especially neighboring and Islamic countries, and honor international agreements and the United Nations Charter.

According to Kabul Radio, the new regime appealed for immediate political, moral and military help from the Soviet Union. The radio stated that the Soviet Union accepted the request of the new regime.

The Soviet Union welcomed the new government's assuming office a few hours after Kabul Radio announced the overthrow of Mr Amin's government and described the former regime of Mr Amin as authoritarian and an agent of imperialism.

U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown said that the government in Afghanistan was toppled because of Soviet military intervention. He said that the United States will protest against Soviet activities in Afghanistan.

SOME DETAINEES FREED FOLLOWING CLASH AT SHAHDRA

BK271623 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Dec 79 BK

[Text] According to an official announcement in Lahore, a large number of those who were arrested in connection with restoring law and order in Aziz colony of Shahdra have been released by the administration as the situation in the area has returned completely to normal. The announcement hoped that the feelings of the administration will be respected in the real sense of the term for the greater interest and that law and order will be maintained.